

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13
AID-05 OPIC-03 TRSE-00 EB-08 /095 W
-----097208 250540Z /10

R 241616Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6797
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASH DC
USNMR SHAPE BEL
COMUSFORAZ
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 6293

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PO
SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER-DESIGNATE MEETS THE PRESS

REF: LISBON 6264 (DTG 240730Z AUG 78)

1. FOLLOWING ARE COMMENTS ON PRIME MINISTER-DESIGNATE NOBRE
DA COSTA'S TELEVISION INTERVIEW, WHICH WAS SUMMARIZED REFTEL.

2. HIS CLAIM OF SOCIALIST PARTY SYMPATHIES CAME AS A
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SURPRISE TO MOST LISTENERS. IT MIGHT BE TAKEN AS A PLOY
AIMED AT EASING HIS RELATIONS WITH THE SOCIALISTS, WHO ARE
LOOKING LIKE HIS MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEMS IN THE ASSEMBLY.
A CREDIBLE SENIOR SOURCE IN THE CDS, HOWEVER, HAS TOLD
US THAT NOBRE DA COSTA DID ACTUALLY HAVE AN INTEREST IN
JOINING THE SOCIALIST PARTY AT ONE TIME. THIS CASTS SOME
LIGHT ON SOCIALIST BITTERNESS AT HIS WILLINGNESS TO

ACCEPT THE PRIME MINISTER DESIGNATION WITHOUT FIRST
INFORMING THEM (LISBON 6019).

3. MORE INTERESTING THAN THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW
WAS NOBRE DA COSTA'S APPROACH: SHORT, EFFICIENT, NO-NONSENSE
ANSWERS. HE HANDLED ABOUT THIRTY QUESTIONS IN HALF AN HOUR;
MARIO SOARES MIGHT HAVE GOT THROUGH SIX. FOR THE PUBLIC,
NOBRE DA COSTA'S DIRECTNESS MAY HAVE BEEN APPEALING.

4. NOTE ALSO NOBRE DA COSTA'S EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC
EFFICIENCY, AS IN HIS COMMENTS ON BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
PROBLEMS AND AGRARIAN REFORM. BASED ON HIS PAST REPUTATION,
AND IN CONTRAST TO SOARES'S STYLE, WE EXPECT NOBRE DA COSTA
TO PROMISE LITTLE BUT TO IMPLEMENT HIS PROGRAMS.
ROWELL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, SPEECHES
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Draft Date: 24 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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